

## Alabama ALERT network aids during disaster

### KILLER TORNADOES RALLY ARES, SKYWARN TEAMS

The ARRL Letter November 25, 2002

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and SKYWARN teams in several eastern states activated November 10 following an outbreak of severe weather that claimed nearly three dozen lives. Characterized as the worst rash of tornadoes in the US in years, the twisters also caused dozens of injuries and widespread property damage. Tennessee, Alabama and Ohio were among the states hardest hit. Hundred of amateurs in the affected states turned out to assist.

"SKYWARN nets were running across the state as the severe weather approached," said ARRL Tennessee Section Emergency Coordinator Sheila Tallent, KB4G. "The accuracy of the forecasted path of funnel clouds and tornadoes saved the lives of many, including an amateur camping in the path of the tornado."

Among affected counties was Montgomery, where a couple died after winds picked up their mobile home and dropped it nearly 200 feet away. Following the tornadoes, ARES members in Coffee County--where at least more two fatalities occurred--got help from Rutherford County ARES. At least one shelter was open in the county.

Tallent said ARES operators were on the roll within minutes of a tornado that struck Morgan County, where three people died. "Because of the training and experience of the amateurs in eastern Tennessee, we were able to continue the SKYWARN net on the regular frequency, begin an emergency operation on a second frequency and begin a resource net on a third frequency," she said. "These three nets were run from three different

## RSVP! RSVP! HOLIDAY PARTY

Our party will be held Thursday December 5, at the Red Cross Headquarters (our normal meeting location) and will be catered by Beach Crew!! Bar-B-Que. We will be having BBQ pork, grilled chicken breast, a choice of side dishes, tea, lemonade, etc. Price will be \$11.50/person and \$6.00 for children under 12. The holiday party will start at 7:00pm instead of our usual 7:30pm meeting time. Please let us know if your coming.

### Contact

#### Dennis Baggett, KF4MHW

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770-387-9351  
kf4mhw@arrl.net

#### John Talipsky Jr, KA4VQH

Activities Manager &  
Hamfest Chairman  
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johnka4vqh@aol.com

#### The Menu:

Bar-B-Que Pork (Chopped)  
Boneless Marinated Chicken

Cole Slaw  
Green Beans  
Parsley Garlic Potatoes

Iced Tea

Dinner Rolls

Bring the family, come have dinner with us and find who is the 2002 ARC Ham of the Year

# THE ATLANTA HAM

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Atlanta Radio Club  
Attn: HAM EDITOR  
PO BOX 720398  
Atlanta, Georgia 30358

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!**

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## THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment.



Bank of America Tower  
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:  
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

## W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 (Linked to 145.35 on FOX) at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

## MEETING NOTICE

**WHEN:** Thursday November 7, 2002 7:30PM  
**WHERE:** Red Cross 1955 Monroe Drive – Atlanta  
**PROGRAM:** IRLP by Penn K4PE, See what's new with the IRLP Nodes  
**TALK IN:** 146.820 (-) PL 146.2  
**DINNER:** 6:15PM The Picadilly Cafeteria  
1544 Piedmont Rd – Ansley Mall

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*The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.*  
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**Every Friday:** Please join the Atlanta Radio Club for lunch Fridays around noon at the 5 Seasons Restaurant. At I285 and Roswell Rd go south on Roswell Rd, 0.2 mile turn right. 5 Seasons Restaurant drive way is the first driveway past 1 Stop light. First stop light is Lake Placid Dr. After turning right go till dead end. Turn right and you are there.

## Killer Storms...

(Continued from page 1)

counties to provide aid in yet a fourth county." ARES teams were on duty from November 10 through November 13 serving the National Weather Service, Morgan County Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, and rescue squads in several counties.

While Coffee County was most affected, Warren, Franklin, Bedford and Cumberland counties in Tennessee also sustained damage, and crews worked through the night to assist in damage assessment and initial cleanup.

Eastern Tennessee Assistant Section Manager David Bower, K4PZT, credited Tallent with "a fantastic job" coordinating emergency nets. CNN interviewed Tallent at her home station November 12 (The segment is scheduled to air on CNN's "Next at CNN program Saturday, November 16, at 1 PM EST and Sunday, November 17 at 4 PM EST). A report in the Knoxville News-Sentinel cited Incident Commander Jody Durham as calling hams absolutely essential. "They've done a wonderful job," Durham said. An Associated Press report noted that emergency crews in Wartburg, Tennessee "relied on ham radio operators for communication since phone lines were knocked out by the storm."

In Alabama, the Alabama Emergency Response Team (ALERT) <<http://www.alert-alabama.org>> played a major role in weather-spotting activities. Alabama suffered a dozen fatalities as a result of the November 10 tornado outbreak--10 of them in Carbon Hill, some 70 miles northwest of Birmingham. A junior high school also was demolished.

"Our SKYWARN communicators were able to relay several severe weather reports, assisting other spotter groups around Alabama in getting their information to NWS forecasters," said

David Black, KB4KCH, ALERT's NWS liaison and training officer. The group had held an orientation and refresher course October 26. ALERT has an amateur station, K4NWS, in the main forecasting area of the Birmingham NWS office.

In Ohio, ARRL SM Joe Phillips, K8QOE, reported emergency nets up and running in Van Wert, Ottawa and Senaca counties, which suffered the most extensive damage in the Buckeye State. ARES organizations in two other Ohio districts stood by. Two Lucas County (Toledo) units promptly responded with an emergency communications trailer to Tiffin in Senaca County and an emergency communications van to Port Clinton in Ottawa County. Meanwhile, Ohio traffic nets, including the Ohio Single Side Band Net (OSSBN), took to the airwaves.

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency has a temporary station

set up in Van Wert County on the OSSBN frequency to facilitate communication in and out of the region most devastated by the November 10 tornadoes, Phillips said. Among the houses destroyed was that of former Ohio District 2 EC Ralph Shields, WB8YIH, in Van Wert.

The swath of violent weather and the tornadoes it spawned also affected

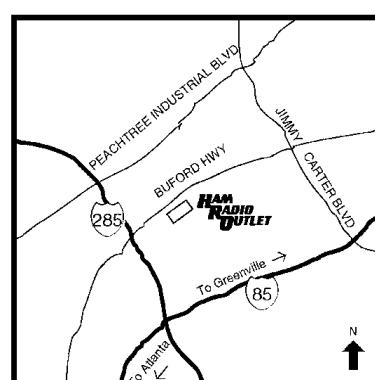
Mississippi, Kentucky and Pennsylvania as well as parts of the Virginias. "Twice in the same day, amateurs activated for severe weather," said ARRL Kentucky SEC Ron Dodson, KA4MAP. Dodson called the early morning session "minor" compared to the one that followed at around 5 PM--which began with a tornado warning. "Torrential rains with hail--pea to dime-size--and winds up to 67 MPH were reported," Dodson said. A tornado funnel indicated by radar was



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## METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC  
2:00 PM (Except July and September)  
Johnson High School  
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainesville  
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

First Thursday – EVEN # MONTHS 7:00 PM  
Fayette County Repeater Assn, ARRL VEC  
Peachtree City Library, downstairs  
Ed Ferguson, N4YTR (edferg@peoplepc.com)

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM  
Walton EMC Building  
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second Saturday CA VEC 8:30 AM  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain  
Hal Martin, KI4RD (770)978-9160

Second Saturday – ODD # MONTHS 10:00 AM  
Fayette County Repeater Assn, ARRL VEC  
Peachtree City Library, downstairs  
Jan Dubroca (770) 502-0760) jan.dubroca@delta-air.com

Third Saturday CA VEC 9:00 AM  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
Room 305  
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth Friday W5YI VEC 7:00 PM  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn  
Headphones provided  
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

Fourth Sunday ARRL VEC 2:30 p.m.  
Georgia Tech - Student Center  
350 First Drive, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30332-0458  
David Ziskind KE4QLH - 404-966-6864, ke4qlh@arrl.net

**THIS SPACE WOULD BE A GOOD PLACE  
TO ADVERTISE!**

Contact the editor: John KI4Y

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2002

Always the 4th Saturday!  
STARS – December, 12pm – 3pm SCITREK  
Contact Penn. K4PE

## UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

7-8 Dec 2002 FLA ST Conv  
Florida Gulf Coast AR Council  
<http://www.fgcarc.org>  
Contact: Fred Hendershot,  
N3BUL  
Phone: 813-671-9556  
Email: n3bul@arrl.net

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## NEWS AND NOTES...

Alexander "Alex" Campbell Talipsky

Born October 21, 2002

8lbs. 6oz. 20 Inches

Grandson of John, KI4Y  
and son of John, KA4VQH

Born at Gwinnett Medical  
Center in Lawrenceville  
7:31pm



**Do you have any family news or announcements you would like to share? Contact John, KI4Y, Editor.**

# ARRL VEC EXAMINATION FEE TO RISE 11-15-02

Source: The ARRL Letter 11-15-02

Starting January 1, 2003, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated Amateur Radio test sessions will increase from \$10 to \$12 for the year 2003. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading their operating privileges.

"While the number of examinees has remained relatively unchanged in the past 24 months, our cost of doing business--and the expenses incurred by ARRL VEs--continues to rise," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "An adjustment was needed in the 2003 test fee if we intended to maintain the same level of service that our VEs and VE teams have come to expect."

Applicants failing an exam element at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also must submit a retest fee of \$12. Additionally, the maximum reimbursement ARRL VEC allows ARRL volunteer examiner (VE) teams to retain to directly offset their "prudently incurred" out-of-pocket expenses will go up from \$4 to \$6 in 2003 (this fee has remained at \$4 per person served since 1991).

Jahnke said that adjusting the reimbursement level for ARRL VEs also was past due. For more information, contact ARRL VEC, [vec@arrl.org](mailto:vec@arrl.org).

## ARRL.NET Traffic Blocked by Hotmail and Juno

ARRL.NET Traffic Blocked by Hotmail and Juno

The ARRL Letter 1-25-02

NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 25, 2002--Hotmail.com and Juno.com notified ARRL headquarters today that they have stopped accepting e-mail messages forwarded to users of their services from the arrl.net e-mail forwarding server. Almost 6,000 ARRL members are affected by this action.

According to representatives of the

two companies, this is, in part, their solution to the Internet-wide problem of spam. The ARRL, through the vendor for the arrl.net server, is currently working with both of these companies to resolve this matter, but an immediate solution does not appear to be imminent. Until the matter is resolved, the League cannot deliver e-mail through the arrl.net server to users of the Hotmail or Juno e-mail services.

ARRL apologizes for the inconvenience created by their decision and will keep you apprised of progress in the matter.

## TECH TIPS & ARRLGA SECTION NEWS

TOM KOCOUREK, N4FWD, wrote in the West Georgia ARS newsletter about how he was able to improve the audio on his mobile 2M rig recently. He added a simple "speaker to cassette player" adapter, (Radio Shack part no. 12-1999 or 12-2051) and he says that it "changes the speaker signal into a magnetic signal understood by the cassette player in the dash." By plugging the adapter into his radio and sliding the cassette part into the car's cassette player, he can adjust the volumes (radio and player) for maximum clarity, including ability to adjust treble and bass.

Are you intrigued with ANTENNAS and always looking for more information on them? HAROLD ALLEN, W4MMC, of Toccoa, sent information

on a web magazine "Antennex", which is a veritable font of information on everything you ever wanted to know about antennas (but were afraid to ask?) It's a subscription magazine, but there's lots of FREE information here for the looking, too, including a couple of excellent articles by Harold. The "Preview Section", the editorial "Stones Throw", and open "Forums", which is an exchange of questions and answers on many amateur radio topics are all free. On the webpage, if you click on the "view free" on the left side of the homepage, you can access "preview articles", where you can check out Harold's articles "SSB "Q" Channel Communication" and "Natural ELF Whistler Radio". <http://www.antennex.com/>.

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New[ ] Renewal[ ] Treasurer Use: Date Paid: Amount: Cash[ ] or Check#

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**Make your check payable to Atlanta Radio Club**

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## **KILLER TORNADOES RALLY ARES, SKYWARN TEAMS**

### **FOR SALE..**

*(Continued from page 4)*

never visually verified by spotters, however.

Damage in Kentucky occurred mostly in Meade and Breckenridge counties and was largely limited to downed trees and power lines.

Ironically, amateurs in Mississippi had held that state's Simulated Emergency Test (SET) just a day before two tornadoes struck Columbus. Damage to Mississippi University for Women and along Highway 50 was extensive, and one person died in the Crawford community, according to Bob Ray, K5VVA, editor of the Lowndes County Amateur Radio Bulletin, which published a special "Tornado Edition" November 12.

Meteorologists have blamed the severe storms on a combination of a strong jet stream moving toward the east colliding with strong surface winds from the Gulf of Mexico.

Have something to sell, let us know! Contact: Ham Editor John KI4Y

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1- PA-6 DC Car Plug Adaptor  
1- CSC-43 Soft Vinyl Case  
1- NC-28B Ni-Cad Wall Charger  
1- NC-29 Universal Desktop Charger  
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## ***MEETING NOTICE December 5, 2002***

***2002 Holiday Party Details  
Front Page...***